

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8421

ERDA WASHDC PRIORITY

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW

SUBJECT: FRG/US AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN GAS-COOLED

REACTORS: FRANCE ASKS TO BE INCLUDED

REF: BONN 21512

1. SUMMARY. CEA IS NOW ASKING ERDA DIRECTLY TO BE INCLUDED AS ONE OF THREE ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS IN COOPERATION IN GAS-COOLED REACTORS. FRENCH PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGES TO DRAFT US/FRG AGREEMENT ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE CONTAINED REFTEL. CEA WOULD WELCOME EARLY ERDA RESPONSE. END SUMMARY

2. AT MEETING CALLED BY CEA AFTERNOON DECEMBER 30, GEORGE VENDRYES, CEA DELEGUE FOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS, ASKED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ERDA'S VIEWS SOONEST ON CEA'S DESIRE TO CHANGE THE PROPOSED BILATERAL US/GERMAN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GAS-COOLED REACTORS (GCRS) INTO A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE FRANCE. CEA'S
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SUGGESTED LANGUAGE CHANGES TO THE DRAFT BILATERAL AGREEMENT WERE TRANSMITTED TO THE GERMANS ON DECEMBER 9 (IDENTICAL TO THOSE CONTAINED REFTEL). PARIS ERDA REP INDICATED THE DRAFT AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION SUBSEQUENT TO US AND GERMAN SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT (ARTICLE 4, SECTION 3) AND THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL INTRODUCES A

PERTURBATION WHICH WOULD LIKELY CAUSE DELAYS IN
CONCLUDING THE AGREEMENT, NOW NEARLY READY FOR SIGNING.

3. VENDRYES STATED THAT CEA WOULD BE READY TO SIGN
SUCH AN AGREEMENT AFTER JANUARY 13 SUBJECT TO: (1) THE
FORMALITY OF APPROVAL BY CEA'S COMMITTEE OF ATOMIC
ENERGY (WHICH MEETS ON THIS DATE); AND (2) AGREEMENT BY
US AND FRG TO ONE SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION IN THE
CURRENT DRAFT. THIS CHANGE (AMENDMENT TO SECOND
PARAGRAPH OF PREAMBLE AND ARTICLE 1), WHILE NOT
EXCLUDING US AND GERMAN EFFORTS ON THE GAS-COOLED
BREEDER REACTORS, WOULD AVOID INDICATION OF FRENCH
INTEREST IN A BACK-UP BREEDER SYSTEM FOR THE LMFBR.
CEA UNDERSTANDS THE GERMANS HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT
THE ASYMMETRY WHICH THIS CHANGE MAY INTRODUCE BUT WOULD
NOT BE BASICALLY OPPOSED IF ERDA IS AGREEABLE. CEA
CLEARLY IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE
TRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENT FROM THE OUTSET. WHEN
QUESTIONED, VENDRYES INDICATED THAT THE TIMING OF THIS
AGREEMENT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE TIED TO THE TIMING
OF THE PROPOSED ERDA-CEA LIMITED LMBR AGREEMENT.

4. CEA ALSO HAS TRIED TO GET FRENCH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON
(CHAUVIN), TO CONTACT ERDA IN THIS MATTER, BUT FAILED
TO REACH CHAUVIN (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE WAS ON
VACATION). WE ASSUME CEA WILL TRY AGAIN AND ASK
CHAUVIN TO PRESENT CEA VIEWS TO ERDA.

5. ASIDE FROM THE WORDING CHANGES NECESSARY TO
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TRANSFORM THIS AGREEMENT FROM A BILATERAL TO A TRI-
LATERAL DOCUMENT, THE MINIMUM SPECIFIC CHANGES
PROPOSED BY THE CEA ARE EXACTLY AS INDICATED IN ITEMS
5 AND 7 OF REFTEL. IN ADDITION, IF PRACTICAL, CEA
WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE CHANGES TO ARTICLE 13 AS
INDICATED IN ITEM 14 OF REFTEL, BUT WOULD NOT INSIST
ON THIS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE OF FURTHER ACTIONS IN THIS MATTER.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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